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Bill Text and Background for the Week of April 23, 2007

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[H.R. 362 - 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act](#)

[H.R. 363 - Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act](#)

[H.R. 1332 - Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007](#)

[H.R. 249 - To restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros](#)

H.R. 362 – 10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT (Rep. Gordon – Science and Technology) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Bill Summary and Status

Rules Committee Meeting: Monday, April 23, 2007 at 5:00p.m., H-313 the Capitol.

[Amendment Process](#), [Summary of Amendments Submitted](#)

Committee: [Committee on Science and Technology](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6375

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

- **Bipartisan Bill.** H.R. 362 is a bipartisan bill aimed at improving K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (“STEM”) education through recruitment, training, mentoring, and professional development of teachers.
- **Robert Noyce Scholarship Program.** The Bill amends the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, which is run by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve STEM teacher education and provide scholarships for college students in STEM fields who commit to teaching after graduation. The bill authorizes \$70 million in FY 2008, \$101 million in FY 2009, \$133 million in FY 2010, \$164 million in FY 2011, and \$196 million in FY 2012 for the scholarship program.
- **Mathematics and Science Education Partnership Program.** H.R. 362 amends the Mathematics and Science Education Partnership (MSP) program to provide for summer institutes and graduate programs that provide sustained, content-oriented professional development to teachers of math, science and technology.

- Teacher Institutes. H.R. 362 authorizes a total of \$195 million over the period of FY 2008 through FY 2012 for the NSF to operate an existing program that provides summer workshops for teachers, and directs the NSF to create a new grant program to assist teachers in attending the workshops.
- Graduate Degree Program. The bill authorizes a total of nearly \$281 million over the period of FY 2008 through FY 2012 for a new grant program to encourage institutions of higher education to develop graduate degree programs for math and science teachers. Under the measure, the NSF would award grants to colleges and universities of different sizes and over a wide variety of locations around the country.
- STEM Talent Expansion Program. The bill authorizes \$44 million in FY 2008, \$55 million in FY 2009, and \$60 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012 for the NSF to operate the NSF STEM Talent Expansion program and expands the program to include centers for improving undergraduate STEM education.
- Laboratory Pilot Program. H.R. 362 authorizes the NSF to create a pilot program to award grants to improve laboratories in secondary schools.

House Report 110-85:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

CRS Reports:

[98-871](#): Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Education: Status and Issues, February 5, 2007

[95-307](#): U.S. National Science Foundation: An Overview, March 16, 2007

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Committee Documents:

[Legislative Highlights](#), "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act

[Action on Innovation](#), Committee Site

Committee Mark-Up:

[Full Committee Markup: H.R. 362](#), March 28, 2007

[National Journal Report](#), March 28, 2007

[Markup Transcript](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Bart Gordon](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute – Adopted by Voice Vote. [Amendment Text](#).
- Vote to Report – H.R. 362 passed the Committee as amended, by **Voice Vote**.

Committee Hearings:

[Science & Technology Leadership in a 21st Century Global Economy](#), March 13, 2007
[Hearing Charter](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Bart Gordon](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Mr. Norman R. Augustine](#), Retired Chairman and CEO of the Lockheed Martin Corporation
[Mr. Harold McGraw, III](#), Chairman, President, and CEO of the McGraw-Hill Companies
[Dr. Robert Dynes](#), President of the University of California
[Dr. Craig Barrett](#), Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation
[Dr. Neal Lane](#), Malcolm Gillis University Professor at Rice University and Senior Fellow at the James Baker III Institute for Public Policy
[Ms. Deborah Wince-Smith](#), President of the Council on Competitiveness

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

[List of Groups Supporting Legislation](#)

Individual Support Letters:

[American Council on Education](#)

[Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America](#) (IEEE-USA)

[STEM Education Coalition](#)

[Various Higher Ed Associations](#)

Other Resources:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 362](#) (28 Democrats, 4 Republicans)

[The Innovation Agenda](#), Office of the Speaker

[Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#), National Academy of Sciences

[Democratic Innovation Agenda](#)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Committee Approves Legislation Strengthening Math & Science Education; Also Clears Commemoratives](#), March 28, 2007

[Committee Emphasizes Need for Action on and Support of U.S. Innovation, Research, Competitiveness Efforts](#), March 13, 2007

[US Business and Higher Education Leaders set to Unveil "The American Innovation Proclamation" to Congress on March 13](#), March 7, 2007

[Innovation, Competitiveness Efforts Advance in Several Bills Cleared by Committee](#), February 28, 2007

[Chairman Will Work to Strengthen Federal Commitment to Science and Math Education, Research](#), February 14, 2007

[Gordon Calls on President to Prioritize Science/Math Education, Research, Energy in State of the Union](#), January 22, 2007

[Chairman Renews Effort to Make U.S. Most Innovative, Well-Educated Country in the World](#), January 10, 2007

[The United States Must Regain its Competitive Advantage \[Gordon\]](#), Nashville Tennessean, January 2, 2006

Legislative History:

No Relevant Legislative History

H.R. 363 - SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

(Rep. Gordon – Science and Technology) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Summary of Amendments Submitted](#), [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#), [Amendment Process](#)



Committee: [Committee on Science and Technology](#)
Committee Staff Contact: 5-6375

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

- Global Economy. H.R. 363 implements action items needed to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in the global economy.
- Grants. The bill authorizes a program at NSF to fund young faculty via grants of at least \$80,000 per year over five years to help researchers pursue innovative or transformative research and requires that NSF allocate at least 3.5 percent of funds appropriated to Research and Related Activities (R&RA) for these grants; H.R. 363 Establishes a similar program at the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science with authorized appropriations of \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.
- Graduate Program. The bill directs NSF to spend at least 1.5 percent of R&RA funds on the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program.
- Innovation Award. H.R. 363 establishes a Presidential Innovation Award for individuals who develop unique scientific or engineering breakthroughs in the national interest.
- Research Coordination. H.R. 363 establishes at the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) a National Coordination Office for Research Infrastructure to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories.
- NASA. H.R. 363 expresses the sense of Congress that a balanced science program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration contributes significantly to innovation and competitiveness.

House Report 110-39:
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

CRS Reports:

[98-871](#): Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Education: Status and Issues, February 5, 2007

[95-307](#): U.S. National Science Foundation: An Overview, March 16, 2007

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Committee Documents:

[Legislative Highlights](#), January 10, 2007

[Action on Innovation](#), Committee Site

[Globalization and the American Workforce](#), Committee Site

[Letter to President from Rep. Gordon Recommending Implementation of Augustine Recommendations on American Competitiveness](#), , January 25, 2006

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER

- Rep. Hall (TX) Amendment: This amendment requires the Director of the National Science Foundation to allocate at least 3.5% of funds appropriated to the National Science Foundation for Research and Related Activities to the early career awards for science and engineering researchers except to the extent that a sufficient number of

meritorious grant applications have not been received for a fiscal year. (20 minutes)
[Amendment Text](#).

- Rep. Tauscher (CA) Amendment: Under the NSF awards guidelines, the amendment recommends that the Director “shall give special consideration to eligible early-career researchers who have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or who have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence.” The amendment would also add to the Presidential Award section that an additional purpose of the award is that it helps foster innovation that enhances American competitiveness. (10 minutes) [Amendment Text](#).
- Rep. Gillibrand (NY) Amendment: The National Science Foundation shall institute a program to award scholarships in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics to undergraduate scholars. Scholarships awarded shall provide for a student’s full tuition during their last two years at an undergraduate institution. (10 minutes) [Amendment Text](#).

Committee Mark-Up:

[Full Committee Markup](#), February 28, 2007

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Rep. Gordon and Rep. Hall Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute – Adopted by Voice Vote. [Amendment Text](#).
- Vote to Report – Ordered Bill Reported to House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote**.

Committee Hearings:

[Science & Technology Leadership in a 21st Century Global Economy](#), March 13, 2007
[Hearing Charter](#)

Opening Statement :[Chairman Bart Gordon](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Mr. Norman R. Augustine](#), Retired Chairman and CEO of the Lockheed Martin Corporation

[Mr. Harold McGraw, III](#), Chairman, President, and CEO of the McGraw-Hill Companies

[Dr. Robert Dynes](#), President of the University of California

[Dr. Craig Barrett](#), Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation

[Dr. Neal Lane](#), Malcolm Gillis University Professor at Rice University and Senior Fellow at the James Baker III Institute for Public Policy

[Ms. Deborah Wince-Smith](#), President of the Council on Competitiveness

[The Administration’s FY2008 Research and Development Budget Proposal](#), February 14, 2007

[Hearing Charter](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Bart Gordon](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Dr. John H. Marburger III](#), Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

[Committee Talking Points](#)

[Tapping America’s Potential-Fact Sheet](#), TAP Campaign

[Innovation Proclamation](#)

Organization Statements:

H.R. 363 is widely endorsed by industry and academia, including by the Business Roundtable and the Council on Competitiveness.

Individual Support Letters:

[California Healthcare Institute](#)

[Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America](#)
(IEEE-USA)

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 363](#)

[The Innovation Agenda](#), Office of the Speaker

[Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#), National Academy of Sciences

[Democratic Innovation Agenda](#)

Administration Position:

The Administration supports House passage, but it urges the House to amend the bill to eliminate the minimum funding requirement for grants, and to allow the National Science Foundation to use more than the funding percentages specified by the bill for certain grant programs. [Statement](#)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Committee Approves Legislation Strengthening Math & Science Education; Also Clears Commemoratives](#), March 28, 2007

[Committee Emphasizes Need for Action on and Support of U.S. Innovation, Research, Competitiveness Efforts](#), March 13, 2007

[US Business and Higher Education Leaders set to Unveil "The American Innovation Proclamation" to Congress on March 13](#), March 7, 2007

[Innovation, Competitiveness Efforts Advance in Several Bills Cleared by Committee](#), February 28, 2007

[Chairman Will Work to Strengthen Federal Commitment to Science and Math Education, Research](#), February 14, 2007

[Gordon Calls on President to Prioritize Science/Math Education, Research, Energy in State of the Union](#), January 22, 2007

[Chairman Renews Effort to Make U.S. Most Innovative, Well-Educated Country in the World](#), January 10, 2007

[The United States Must Regain its Competitive Advantage \[Gordon\]](#), Nashville Tennessean, January 2, 2006

Legislative History:

No Relevant Legislative History.

H.R. 1332 - SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007 (*Rep. Bean – Small Business*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 6:00, H-313 the Capitol,

[Amendment Process](#)

Committee: [Committee on Small Business](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-4038

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

- Overview. The Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 will update and streamline the SBA's two largest small business finance programs, the 7(a) and 504 programs.
- SBA Finance Program. The bill will make the 7(a) program more affordable to borrowers and lenders by providing the SBA with authority to contribute funds to reduce the burden associated with borrower and lender fees on 7(a) loans without disturbing the stability that the program currently enjoys under a zero-subsidy policy.

- New SBA Loan Finance Programs. The bill will create the following new 7(a) loan programs:
 - A rural lender outreach program will reduce the paperwork burden associated with 7(a) loans for lenders located in rural areas.
 - H.R. 1332 will also make the Community Express Program permanent, providing the SBA with a dedicated program to increase the access to capital for socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners.
 - The bill also establish a program to reduce borrower and lender fees by half and increase the guaranty to 90 percent for loans made to doctors and dentists located in Federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).
 - The Bill will establish a program to eliminate borrower and lender fees and increase the guarantee to 90 percent for loans made to veteran-owned small businesses.
- Small Bank Outreach division. H.R. 1332 will establish a Small Bank Outreach division within the SBA to provide community banks with direct support in their efforts to participate in the 7(a) program and will authorize the SBA to develop a simplified size standard for 7(a) loans modeled on the successful alternative size standard that the agency currently maintains for the 504 program.
- Certified Development Company Program. H.R. 1332 will make an array of technical changes to the 504 program by modernizing and improving the program by addressing two of the program's most evident problems.
 - The bill will improve the program's ability to liquidate defaulted loans by permitting Certified Development Companies ("CDCs") to either foreclose and liquidate defaulted loans or to contract with a qualified third party to do so. The bill will also enhance the ties between CDCs and the communities that they serve by requiring CDCs to include community members from their designated areas of operation on their board of directors.

House Report 110-04:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

CRS Report:

[RS22589](#): Possible Small Business Issues in the 110th Congress, January 29, 2007

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Small Business

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Committee Documents:

(TBA)

Committee Mark-Up:

Committee on Small Business Mark-up, March 15, 2007

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Chairwoman Velazquez Manager Amendment – Adopted by **Voice Vote**
- Rep. Fallin Amendment on a Special Rule for Affiliation of Small Business Concerns – **Offered and Withdrawn.**
- Vote to Report – H.R. 1332 was ordered reported to the House, as amended, by a **Voice Vote.**

Committee Hearings:

Committee on Small Business hearing on the SBA's 7(a) and 504 financing programs, March 1, 2007

Hearing on H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007, March 8, 2007.

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Organization Statements:

[Academy of General Dentistry](#)

[Alliance of the American Dental Association](#)

[American Academy of Family Physicians](#)

[American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#)

[American Academy of Periodontology](#)

[American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons](#)

[American Association of Orthodontists](#)

[American College of Physicians](#)

[American College of Prosthodontists](#)

[American College of Radiology](#)

[American Dental Association](#)

[American Student Dental Association](#)

[Independent Community Bankers of America](#)

[AMVETS](#)

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 1332](#) (5 Democrats, 2 Republicans)

Administration Position

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles

(TBA)

Legislative History:

No Relevant Legislative History.

H.R. 249 - TO RESTORE THE PROHIBITION ON THE COMMERCIAL SALE AND SLAUGHTER OF WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS *(Rep. Rahall – Natural Resources) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 6:00, H-313 the Capitol,

[Amendment Process](#)

Committee: [Committee on Natural Resources](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6065

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

- H.R. 249 will restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros that was eliminated by rider contained in the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Enacted in 1971, Congress the original law, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (PL 92-195), directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service to enforce the protection of wild horses and burros on public land.
- In the 2005 omnibus spending law (PL 108-447), Congress repealed the 1971 prohibition on the sale of horses and burros to commercial slaughtering plants. Under current law, BLM sells wild horses or burros who are more than 10 years old and who have not been adopted by a private owner after being offered in three auctions. Despite efforts to minimize the impact of these changes in law, more than 50 wild horses have been slaughtered because of the rider.
- Humane alternatives to slaughter exist and federal agencies have the authority to carry out such humane actions as adoption, sterilization, relocation, and placement with qualified individuals and organizations.

House Report 110-93:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

CRS Report:

[RS21842](#): Horse Slaughter Prevention Bills and Issues, April 18, 2007

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Committee Documents:

(TBA)

Committee Mark-Up:

[Full Committee Markup](#), March 7, 2007

Summary of Recorded Votes:

- Rep. Jeff Flake Amendment to Delete the Prohibition on Sales – Offered and Withdrawn.
- Vote to Report – H.R. 249 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by **Voice Vote**.

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

[Talking Points](#), American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign



Organization Statements:

[Animal Protection Institute](#)

[The Humane Society](#)

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 249](#) (11 Democrats, 6 Republicans)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Rahall Continues Work to Prohibit Senseless Slaughter of Wild Horses](#), January 5, 2007

[Wild Horse Protection Bill Approved by Committee](#), March 7, 2007

Legislative History:

The House-passed versions of the Interior-Environment appropriations bills for FY 2006 and FY 2007 included a prohibition on the sale of wild horses and burros for slaughter, but the provision was not included in the final versions that were enacted. In the 109th Congress, the House passed a related bill (HR 503) that would have prohibited shipping or sales of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption by a vote of 263 to 146. The Senate, however, did not act on that bill.